

GODDARD TOASTMASTERS --- CLUB 3496, AREA 42, DISTRICT 36

The Oracle

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Mrs. Wanda David, Editor

[http:// toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://toastmasters.gsfc.nasa.gov)



The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to communicate and leadership skills, which in confidence and



and leadership turn foster self-personal growth.

Toastmasters International

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Honing SHARP Success

By Jeff Bolognese

Another year and another successful collaboration between Goddard Toastmasters and the Summer High school Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP). As reported on in the last issue of "The Oracle", Goddard Toastmasters once again worked with the SHARP students to help them improve their public speaking skills.

This year's 5-week program was organized by Jeff Bolognese and Jane Liu, but featured help from a number of other Toastmasters. In our first meeting, Jeff presented the "Better

Speaker Series" presentation on impromptu speaking. Jane followed that presentation with a hands on (or mouths-on) demonstration and engaged the students in their first table topics session.

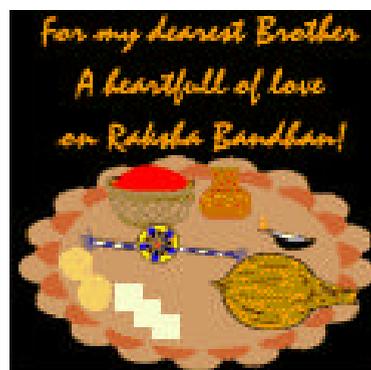
During week 2 Jane helped the students with "Organize Your Speech" which was followed by fortune cookie table topics by Jeff. On week 3, Goddard Toastmaster's President, Bigyani Das stepped up to help out. Bigyani presented "Preparation and Practice" with Jane Liu leading the table topics session.

Week 4 had further Toastmaster assistance from Mike Heney and Paul McCeney. Mike presented his "PowerPoint Presentations" talk again. And, due to a last minute room change, had to present it without his laptop and live PowerPoint demonstration. However, true professional that he is, Mike had brought backup overhead transparencies and was able to proceed. Consummate Toastmaster, Paul McCeney led the table topics program to allow the students a chance to flex those strengthening oratory muscles.

The final session featured a discussion on technical presentations by Jeff and was geared to help the students as they prepared for their end-of-year presentations and poster session. Mike Heney led the final table topics. Per a student request, Mike prepared a debate style table topics in which two students had one to two minutes to present differing sides of an issue, and then 30 seconds each for rebuttal. By that final week, the students were really starting to warm up and, for the first this year, were actually enthusiastic about participating! It was actually hard to get the students to STOP talking for a change.

By the end of those 5 weeks, the SHARP students were already counting the dividends of their work with Toastmasters. During a video conference with SHARP students from other centers, the Goddard students said they were more confident and organized than their counterparts at other centers. In fact, the Goddard students admitted to picking out a variety of public speaking *faux pas* committed by the other students. And they say kids today don't listen!

All in all, a valuable experience was had by everyone involved. Thanks again to all of the Toastmasters who participated in the SHARP program this year. Thanks also to the SHARP students for staying awake for our presentations, even though they were scheduled for just after lunch. And also, thank you to Myrtle Brijbasi for once again allowing Toastmasters to be part of the SHARP program and giving us the opportunity to help those fine young people reach for the stars.



Happy Brother's Day *Dr Bigyani Das, ATMB*

August is an auspicious month. In this month the auspicious day of "Rakshyabandhan" or "Happy brother's Day" is celebrated in India. On this day sisters tie the right hand wrist of their brothers with "rakhi", a silken thread, as a symbol of love, faith and care. They put "tilak", a dot of sandalwood paste and vermilion powder on the forehead of their brothers to remind them that they are responsible to uphold the respect and the dignity of their sisters. The sister feeds the sweets to her brother as a symbol of her good wishes, and to remind the brother that the brother-sister relationship is so sweet, so sacred, and so pure. Brothers should never forget this even if they become so much busy with huge responsibilities of their job and their own family.

A brother's role in a sister's life is very special. The brother acts in the role of a mentor (guide), a supporter (helper), and a protector for his sister. In Toastmasters, our fellow members work the same way as a brother does and provide support for our growth in public speaking. They act in the role of a sister, a caring, affectionate well-wisher who evaluates our mistakes with positive feedback and encourages us to keep hope, work and progress.

At the start of a new Toastmasters' year, I request you all to keep this feeling that WE ARE A FAMILY. We are brothers and sisters. We care our fellow members as sisters. We guide our fellow members as brothers. We should always work together to uphold the dignity and respect of our family, our club. Under the leadership of Mike Heney as last year's President, we earned the designation of Select Distinguished Club (only President's Distinguished is higher.) We had also got this recognition one year before under the leadership of Jeff Bolognese. Congratulations – and thanks – to both Mike and Jeff for making us proud. Now is the time to go a step further. If we all work together, I strongly feel that we can make it President Distinguished this year.

We have a new set of officers for the 2001-02 year; they are: Bigyani Das, President; Carolyn Ng, VP-Education; Wanda David, VP-Public Relations; Jane Liu, VP-Membership; Mike Rilee, Secretary, Mike Heney, Treasurer, and Don Moore, Sergeant-At-Arms. We're working on a Club Success Plan. Although we all have multiple roles to play, we can always use effective time management so that we can get the best out of our toastmasters experience.

We represented our club in Goddard Day celebration in July. Thanks to Mike Heney, Jeff Bolognese, Paul McCeney, Katheleen Fernandez, Carolyn Ng for helping in this effort. We have also satisfied the requirement of four trained officers in Summer. Actually we have five officers trained, Bigyani Das, Mike Heney, Mike Rilee, Wanda David and Jane Liu. I hope the same spirit would help us achieve our Winter training goals.

On August 28th we will have our club's Humorous Speech and Table Topics contest. Our contest winners will go on to represent Goddard Toastmasters at the Area 42 contest on September 26th, and hopefully move on to the Division D and then District 36 contests the following months. These contests are a lot of fun and educational – both for the speakers and the audience. Last year Jeff Bolognese had gone to the District level and made us proud. I'm looking forward to a good turnout for this fun filled event.

Farther out on the horizon, we have our Halloween "theme" meeting on October 23rd, and our Holiday party on December 11th. For last two years Janette Gervin had shared with us exciting ghost stories and Martha O'Bryan had lead the Table Topics session of creating scary ghost stories. I hope to experience more exciting events in our Haloween "theme" meeting.

Congratulations to Mike Rilee who will complete his Competent Toastmaster Award (CTM) very soon. Mike sets a good example for all of us in working towards meeting individual goals and helping the club at the same time. I hope he would continue working on achieving advanced goals for Competent Leader (CL) or Advanced Toastmaster Award (ATM). I'd like to encourage ALL our members to actively participate in our club's activities and always come forward as a volunteer to do every possible job – Toastmaster of the Day, General Evaluator, Grammarian, etc. – at least once during the course of the year.

I'm looking forward to a very productive year. Let's make this promise that we will care for our club and our fellow toastmasters as sisters, and we will support our fellow toastmasters and uphold the respect and dignity of our members as brothers. I'll see you each 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 11:30 to 1:00!



Dues Time

By Mike Heney / Club Treasurer

Well, folks, it's that time of year again, and as your new Treasurer, it's my job to chase you all down for money! That's right, it's time to pay your Toastmaster's dues for the period from Oct 1, 2002 – Sep. 30, 2003.

We all know what a great deal Toastmasters is; it's just \$36/year for international dues (that's only \$3/month), and a whopping \$6/year for the club dues. For civil servants, you can have the government pay your TI dues via Training Request; you'll still need to come up with the \$6 out of pocket. For contractors (or those who don't want to bother with Training Requests), the cost is \$42 all total.

We need to get our paperwork into TI by October 1, so we need to have you help us and get your payment and paperwork in as soon as possible. Please make checks payable to **Goddard Toastmasters**, for either \$6 or \$42, and if you are doing a training request, please route the completed and signed request to ME, rather than the training office. I'm in Building 33, Room E324, x4-6267, my mail code is 916.0. If you're doing anything through Goddard mail, please call me or drop me an e-mail at mheney@code916.gsfc.nasa.gov to let me know what to be expecting.

Your cooperation is most deeply appreciated!



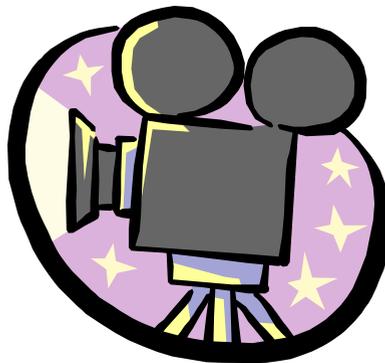
Waking Up to the Potential of Storytelling

By Wanda David

This is a busy life! My days are filled with home, professional, and community activities. Many times my energy is depleted and I question how I can better engage my time spent with my three young children.

In searching for a process to revitalize my parenting spirit, a light went on. What about the reservoir of stories I have inside myself? Limited by my thinking that stories can only be told in a quiet room with rocking chairs, I have stifled my transmission of the wonderful stories I learned as a child and adult. Waking up to the potential of storytelling, I have found the golden strand to help weave the lives of my children and mine together.

I can tell stories anywhere! (i.e. getting dressed, in the car, shopping) As I anticipate engaging in the process of storytelling with my children, I am revived and inspired. Just think of the potential that can be tapped as we enter the world of imagery together and explore what could be.....



Member Spotlight

Mike Heney – Past President

serving as club president last year was a very rewarding experience for me - primarily because we have a solid core of committed members in the club who helped to keep things running smoothly. We had meetings that shaped up nicely well in advance, which was pleasant; we also had the occasional meeting with holes in the agenda that you could drive a truck through once or twice, and people always stepped forward to

take care of things. It's a wonderful feeling to have people say "yes" when you ask for their help!

I also appreciated the hard work and support of my fellow officers last year. Carolyn, Bigyani, Kathleen, Mike, Steve, and Don all brought their enthusiasm and individual talents to the table last year, and contributed to the club's success. Because of everyone's good work, we "breezed" to our second straight year of being a Select Distinguished Club. It's the kind of thing that looks easy on the surface, but really depends on everyone - officers and club members - doing their job and taking care of business. Everyone did, and we've got the ribbon to prove it!

I think one of the things that I enjoyed most about the past year was the influx of new members we had. The sense of community in our club is something that has impressed me ever since I first joined 'way back in 1999; it's fun welcoming new members into the club and being reinvigorated by the enthusiasm and energy they bring with them. And frankly, I think we have a few ringers in the group - from what I've seen so far, our newer members seem to have pretty darn good speaking skills already. I'm looking forward to hearing their speeches and getting to know them better as time goes on.

It was a fun year, it was a productive year, it was a successful year, and I'm glad the club survived my presidency ;-). Thank you all for giving me the chance to serve!



Announcements

Contestants Needed for the Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest to be held on August 28, 2002. We have our club's Humorous Speech and Table Topics coming up in less than 3 weeks. We've had great success as a club the last two years with our Humorous speaker - in 2000, Mike Heney won the Area 42 and Division D contests before leaving the District 36 contest empty-handed, and last year, Jeff Bolognese went one better by winning Area 42 and Division D and then walking off with the 3rd place trophy at District 36.

Who will step forward to represent us this year? The field is wide open! Mike Heney is ineligible to compete this year, because he's serving as an area governor, and Jeff is taking a break to recharging his humor batteries this year. This means that it's someone else's turn to run the gauntlet and show the world that NASA/GSFC is really a pretty

funny place! If you have any inklings or thoughts of a speech that might be funny, start working on it now, and sign up for the contest. There are no requirements other than being a member in good standing of the club; the speech can double as a manual speech if you want.

We also need Table Topics contestants; no preparation is needed for this contest, all you have to do is show up to the meeting and address the Table Topic presented. Again, no requirements other than being a member in good standing!

District 36 **Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)** will hold its training session on Saturday, August 10, 2002 9:00-1:00 PM at Verison, 13100 Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

July Meeting Minutes

On the July 24th meeting, Toastmaster of the Day was Mike Rilee. There were three prepared speeches by Esther Woodward, Mike Heney, and Wanda David. Esther presented her 2nd speech from the communication and Leadership Program, Speaking with Sincerity. She spoke on the Benefits of Regular Exercise. Mike Heney presented a talk entitled Rent a Kid, from the Entertaining Speaker Program. Wanda David presented her 2nd speech from the Communication and Leadership Program, Speaking with Sincerity entitled Thinking Outside of the Box: Are Computers Rally Increasing the Education of Americans. Jeff Bolognese

led the Table Topic discussion on how consistent your horoscope predication was. Don Moore was the general evaluator. Carolyn Ng evaluated Mike's speech. Maureen Armbruster evaluated Esther's speech and Paul McCeney evaluated Wanda's speech. Mike Heney was the Best Speaker,

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Bigyani Das	Meeting Dates:	Every 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of the Month
VP, Education:	Carolyn Ng	Place:	Bldg. 28, Rm E210 (90% of the time)
VP, Membership:	Jane Liu	Time:	11:30am-1:00pm
VP, Public Relations:	Wanda David	Contacts:	Any officer or the WWW at: http://snipe.gsfc.nasa.gov/~jeff/TM
Treasurer:	Mike Heney		
Secretary:	Mike Rilee		
SGT at Arms:	Don Moore		